

ALL IN THE FAMILY

by TIM BASS

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A tough-minded businessman conducts a brutal job interview for the position of son-in-law.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Going overboard is the key: Keep TIGHTRIGHT as domineering as possible, and JEB correspondingly docile to maintain the comic conflict.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Family, Marriage

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Genesis 2:24

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

TIGHTRIGHT—an authoritarian father

JEB—a nervous potential suitor

PROPS: Desk phone, papers, small cassette recorder, two folders (one small, one huge)

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An office

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Lights up on an office. Desk with chair. Another chair in front of the desk. TIGHTRIGHT sits behind the desk. He is looking through some papers. He picks up the phone, pushes a button and speaks.

TIGHTRIGHT: Doris, would you send him in please? Thanks, Doris. Listen, this could take a while, you might as well go on to lunch. Uh, sure...anything but chicken.

He hangs up the phone. JEB enters. He is in his early twenties. He stands. Silence. They look at each other. TIGHTRIGHT stands. He has a small cassette recorder in his hand. He crosses to JEB and begins to circle him.

JEB: *(Clears his throat)* Uh, Mr. Tightright...

TIGHTRIGHT: Shhhhhh! *(Into recorder)* Applicant is approximately five feet ten inches tall. Weight, one-sixty. *(To JEB)* Hold out your hands.

JEB: Uh...Wha...? I don't...

TIGHTRIGHT: Your hands. *(JEB holds out his hands. TIGHTRIGHT examines them. He speaks into recorder.)* Good hands...a little soft, but he's young. *(To JEB)* Smile.

JEB: Uh, look, Mr. Tightright, I...

TIGHTRIGHT: Smile. *(JEB grins. TIGHTRIGHT speaks into recorder.)* Good teeth. *(To JEB)* Have a seat.

JEB sits. TIGHTRIGHT sits behind desk, places the recorder on desk. It is still on.

JEB: Uh, Mr. Tightright...

TIGHTRIGHT: You always do that?

JEB: Uh...do what, sir?

TIGHTRIGHT: That. Start every sentence with "uh."

JEB: Uh...I mean, uh, no...no sir. I, uh...sorry!...it's just...I'm nervous, I guess.

TIGHTRIGHT: No need. Be yourself. Relax.

JEB: Oh. Right. Okay.

TIGHTRIGHT: Sooooo...you want to marry my daughter. My Susan. My little flower. My sunrise, my sunset. My Cinderella. My Snow White.

JEB: Uh...